Corvus culminatus, Sykes. Large Black Crow.

Less numerous, and of less intrusive and impertinent habits than the last. It breeds at the same time, and lays the same number of eggs as the Common Crow of India. The eggs are of a pale blue dashed and spotted with olive and grey, 1 inch and rather more than $\frac{7}{10}$ths of an inch in length, by 1 inch and rather more than $\frac{2}{10}$ths of an inch in width. The eggs of this Crow also vary in size and colour.

Family Sturnidæ. Subfamily Sturninæ.

Genus Pastor.

Pastor Tristis, Temm. Common Myna.

This sprightly talkative bird is common in Western India. It lives in small flocks, and is a close attendant on cattle, walking amongst them with a cheerful upright gait, its head inclined, now on this side now on the other, watching for insects, all the while talking and muttering with its peculiarly smooth and oily note. It is a great favourite with the natives, who keep numbers of them in cages. The Myna breeds during the month of May, making its nest in the holes of trees and buildings, also in stacks and ricks. It lays as many as six eggs, of a pale blue colour, 1 inch and rather more than $\frac{2}{10}$ths of an inch in length, by $\frac{9}{10}$ths of an inch in width. Eggs out of the same nest differ in size.

July 25, 1854.—John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

Description of a New Species of Momotus.
By John Gould, F.R.S. etc.

Mr. Gould exhibited a species of *Momotus*, which he had had in his collection for many years, and which he believed to be entirely new to science. It is most nearly allied to the *Momotus Mexicanus*, but differs from that species in its much larger size, in the deeper chestnut-colour of the head, and in having a greyish-white mark under the eye, in lieu of the rich blue one observable in *M. Mexicanus*. These differences induce Mr. Gould to consider it to be distinct; in which opinion he was greatly confirmed by finding other examples, precisely similar in colour, in the fine collection of the late Earl of Derby, now in Liverpool. He therefore proposed for it the name of

Momotus castaneiceps.

Crown of the head very deep chestnut, gradually blending on the back of the neck into the reddish grass-green of the back and wing-coverts; primaries and secondaries bluish green on the external web and next the shaft on the internal web, the remainder of the feathers being brownish-black, largely margined with buffy-yellow at the base, and with black shafts; upper tail-coverts and tail bluish-green, the

latter with black shafts, and the spatulate terminations of the two centre feathers largely tipped with black; lores and lengthened ear-coverts black, the latter bounded above by a narrow line of blue; beneath the eye a narrow streak of greyish-white, bounded above by a finer streak of blue; under surface very pale green, becoming of a still paler and more buffy hue on the vent; on the centre of the breast a few lanceolate pendent feathers of a deep velvety black, narrowly bordered with pale blue; bill black; feet brownish-black.

Total length, 15½ inches; bill, 2; wing, 5¼; tail, 8⅝; tarsi, 1⅛.

Hab. Guatemala.

On the Anatomy of the Great Anteater (Myrmecophaga jubata).

By Professor Owen, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

Professor Owen read a paper on the Anatomy of the Great Anteater (*Myrmecophaga jubata*). The animal dissected was a full-grown female; it was received at the Gardens September 29, 1853, and died July 6, 1854. It weighed 62 lbs.; the weight of the brain was 3 oz. avoir. The nipples were two in number, post-pectoral in position; the vulva and vent opened by a common cloacal aperture. The integument was thick; well-developed dermal muscles attached it to parts of the skeleton: the extent and attachments of these were described. The position of the viscera on opening the abdominal cavity was detailed. The intestinal canal is supported by one broad fold of peritoneum, as in reptiles. A long narrow continuous gland extends along the base line of the mesenteric part of the fold, and a parallel series of detached glands along the mesocolic part. Other modifications of the peritoneum were described in relation to the support and connection of other viscera. The stomach consisted of two parts, a cardiac or membranous, and a pyloric or muscular part. The cardiac part is a subglobular cavity, measuring when distended 9 inches in its longest diameter, 7 inches in depth from the cardia, to the left of which the cavity bulges about 4 inches. The circumference of the cavity is 18 inches. The pyloric part is 3 inches in both longitudinal and vertical diameter, 2½ inches across; its muscular part is so thick that it may be called a gizzard: it has not however the thick callous epithelial lining of a true ornithic gizzard.

The lining membrane of the stomach, as compared with that of the œsophagus, becomes more vascular and is furnished with a thinner epithelium at the cardiac orifice; but the lining membrane for some distance from that orifice, and between it and the entry to the gizzard, is smoother and covered by a thicker layer of epithelium than in the rest of the cardiac cavity, where the ordinary vascular villous gastric surface prevails: the one modification passes insensibly into the other. When fully distended, the cardiac cavity is smooth; as it contracts, the lining membrane falls into rugæ, very minute and irregular near the cardia, thicker and larger at the greater curvature, and assuming a longitudinal direction as they approach and converge towards the